

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00706 261057Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 NEA-10 /080 W

-----261100Z 049718 /17

O R 261026Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1747

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0706

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN OBLIQUE REACTION TO ROK NON-AGGRESSION
PROPOSAL

1. DURING CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER I RAISED WITH HIM THE
LETTER ADOPTED AT JANUARY 25 PYONGYANG RALLY WHICH APPEARED
TO BE AN OBLIQUE REACTION TO PRESIDENT PAK'S JANUARY 12
NON-AGGRESSION PACT PROPOSAL. FONMIN SAID NORTH KOREAN
PROPOSALS IN LETTER WERE NOT NEW AND ROKG DID NOT REGARD
LETTER AS FORMAL OR DIRECT RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT PAK'S PROPOSAL.
HE SAID ROKG DID NOT PLAN TO MAKE OFFICIAL COMMENT. I
NOTED PRESENCE NORTH KOREAN PREMIER PAK SONG-CHOL IN MOSCOW
AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE JUST AS WELL TO DELAY
REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN LETTER UNTIL WE COULD SEE WHETHER
PAK VISIT PRODUCED ANYTHING NEW WHICH MIGHT RELATE TO NON-
AGGRESSION PACT PROPOSAL. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED AND SAID
HE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN WASHINGTON REACTION
TO NORTH KOREAN LETTER AND IN ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT
RECEIVE CONCERNING SUBSTANCE OF PAK'S MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS
OR SOVIET REACTIONS.

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2. AS FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT PAK'S PROPOSAL FOREIGN MINISTER
SAID THAT ROK CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE,
CHANG KI-YANG, WILL SEND MESSAGE JANUARY 28 TO NORTH KOREA
PROPOSING THAT ROK-NK MEETING BE HELD TO CONSIDER PRELIMINARY
PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSIONS ON NON-AGGRESSION PACT. HE SAID
PRESIDENT OF KOREAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, YI HO, WILL ALSO ISSUE
SHORT STATEMENT OFFERING TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY FOR

PROVISION ROK FOOD TO NORTH KOREA AS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT
PAK IF ROKG OS DESIRES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED IF WE COULD CONFIRM
PRESS ACCOUNTS TO EFFECT RUSSIANS AND NORTH KOREANS
DISCUSSING U.S. TROOPS IN ROK. I TOLD HIM WE HAD
SEEN NOTHING TO THIS EFFECT. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE
FELT THAT THE USSR WANTED TO HANDLE KOREAN QUESTION
ON GERMAN PATTERN. HE SPECULATED SOVIET AGREEMENT TO
PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PYONGYANG WOULD GIVE
THEM LEVERAGE TO PERSUADE NORTH KOREA TO CONSIDER THIS
POSSIBILITY. HE ALSO THOUGHT CURRENT TURMOIL IN PEKING
COULD HELP SOVIETS TO CONVINCE NORTH KOREA TO RELY MORE
ON USSR WITH POSSIBLE RESUTL THAT U.S. COULD THEN URGE
SOVIETS TO ENCOURAGE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE NORTH KOREAN
ATTITUDE. I NOTED THAT U.S. AND SOVIETS WOULD HAVE A
NUMBER OF MAJOR ISSUES TO DISCUSS, INCLUDING SALT AND MIDDLE
EAST, AND THAT SOVIETS WOULD ALSO WANT TO USE ANY
LEVEARAGE THEY HAD WITH NORTH KOREANS TO GET EHEM TO MOVE
FURTHER AWAY FROM PEKING ORBIT.

4. WOUV APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW
MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONCERNING SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET/
NORTH KOREA TALKS IN MOSCOW FOR PASSAGE TO FOREIGN
MINISTER.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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